

CLAIMS

1-49 (canceled)

50. (currently amended) A removable memory storage device for use in connection with a secure medical records maintenance system that includes a first remote server operable for storing patient identification information associated with multiple patents and a second remote server operable for storing patient medical data associated with the multiple patents, ~~wherein the medical data maintained on the second remote server cannot be correlated to the associated patient identification information maintained on the first remote server based on the information contained on the first and second remote servers, the removable memory storage device~~ comprising:

a computer readable memory storing correlation information sufficient to uniquely associate a patient's patient identification information stored on the first remote computer server with that patient's medical data stored on the second remote ~~server.~~
server;

wherein the medical data maintained on the second remote server cannot be correlated to the associated patient identification information maintained on the first remote server based on the information contained on the first and second remote servers;

wherein the correlation information stored on the removable memory storage correlates the associated patient identification information maintained on the first remote server with the medical data maintained on the second remote server; and

wherein the correlation information stored on the removable memory storage device comprises a patient identification number stored on the first remote server in association with the patient's patient identification information and a medical records identification number stored on the second remote server in association with the patient's medical data.

51. (canceled)

52. (previously pending) The removable memory storage device of claim 50, wherein the correlation information stored on the removable memory storage device is encrypted to inhibit unauthorized access to the correlation information.

53. (previously pending) The removable memory storage device of claim 50, wherein the correlation information stored on the removable memory storage device is secured by a personal identification number under the control of the patient.

54. (previously pending) The removable memory storage device of claim 50, wherein:

the computer readable memory stores correlation information for multiple patients sufficient to uniquely associate each patients' patient identification information stored on the first remote computer server with those patients' medical data stored on the second remote server; and

the correlation information stored on the removable memory storage device for each patient is secured by separate personal identification number under the control of an associated patient.

55. (previously pending) The removable memory storage device of claim 50 configured as a wallet-sized smartcard.

56. (previously pending) The removable memory storage device of claim 50, further configured to receive and store medical readings from a health monitoring and diagnostic device, and transmit the medical readings to the secured medical data storage system.

57. (previously pending) The removable memory storage device of claim 50, further comprising stored computer readable information sufficient to engage in monetary transactions using the removable memory storage device as a payment instrument.

58. (currently amended) A secure medical records maintenance system comprising:

a first remote server operable for storing patient identification information associated with multiple patents;

a second remote server operable for storing patient medical data associated with the multiple patents;

wherein the medical data maintained on the second remote server cannot be correlated to the associated patient identification information maintained on the first remote server based on the information contained on the first and second remote servers;

a plurality of removable memory storage devices issued to patients who have patient identification information stored on the first remote server and patient medical data stored on the second remote server; and

wherein each removable memory storage device comprises a computer readable memory storing correlation information sufficient to uniquely associate a patient's patient identification information stored on the first remote computer server with that patient's medical data stored on the second remote ~~server-~~ server;

wherein the correlation information stored on the removable memory storage correlates the associated patient identification information maintained on the first remote server with the medical data maintained on the second remote server; and

wherein the correlation information stored on the removable memory storage device comprises a patient identification number stored on the first remote server in association with the patient's patient identification information and a medical records identification number stored on the second remote server in association with the patient's medical data.

59. (canceled)

60. (previously pending) The secure medical records maintenance system of claim 58, wherein the correlation information stored on the removable memory storage device is encrypted to inhibit unauthorized access to the correlation information.

61. (previously pending) The secure medical records maintenance system of claim 58, wherein the correlation information stored on the removable memory storage device is secured by a personal identification number under the control of the patient.

62. (previously pending) The secure medical records maintenance system of claim 58, wherein:

the computer readable memory stores correlation information for multiple patients sufficient to uniquely associate each patients' patient identification information stored on the first remote computer server with those patients' medical data stored on the second remote server; and

the correlation information stored on the removable memory storage device for each patient is secured by separate personal identification number under the control of an associated patient.

63. (previously pending) The secure medical records maintenance system of claim 58, wherein each removable memory storage device is configured as a wallet-sized smartcard.

64. (previously pending) The secure medical records maintenance system of claim 58, wherein each removable memory storage device is further configured to receive and store medical readings from a health monitoring and diagnostic device, and transmit the medical readings from the removable memory storage device to the secured medical data storage system.

65. (previously pending) The secure medical records maintenance system of claim 58, further comprising stored computer readable information sufficient to engage in monetary transactions using the removable memory storage device as a payment instrument.

66-71 (withdrawn)